REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The drawings and disclosure have been amended to overcome the various objections raised by the Examiner.

Paragraph [0048] has been amended to describe the orientation of the pivot axis of the carrier relative to the elongate shaft. No new subject matter has been added as this relationship is clearly shown in the drawings.

In the response of March 30, 2006 that was not entered, essentially for raising new issues with respect to the claims, former claim 11 was amended by including limitations from dependent claim 12. These claims have now been cancelled and a new claim 29 has been inserted which closely follows the former claim 11 proposed in the response of March 30, 2006. As a Request for Continued Examination has now been filed, the language of this claim has been amended and clarified to further distinguish over the art.

New claim 29 includes a carrier for each implement. Each carrier is pivotally and slidably attached to the collar. The sliding of the carrier is relative to the collar and in fact, is relative to an elongate slot provided in the collar for each carrier. Claim 29 further states that the pivot axis of each carrier is slidable along the respective slot recess between a storage position of the carrier at one end of the slot recess and a spaced in-use position towards an end of the slot recess opposite the one end of the slot recess.

Claim 2 further clarifies the insertion of an implement in the drive socket of the drive shaft by sliding movement of the pivot axis of the carrier in the slot recess to the in-use position.

In a preferred embodiment of the invention, each elongate slot of the collar receives the length of the base arm when the respective carrier is in the storage position.

In dependent claim 31, the elongate slot is of a length greater than the length of the base arm of the respective carrier and each carrier at an end of the base arm opposite the pivot axis includes a latch member for releasably holding the carrier in the storage position. (See Figure 21)

Dependent claim 32 further requires that each implement receiving recess includes a spring latch that releasably receives an implement and allows hand removal of the implement from the carrier. This is particularly convenient jobs that require the use of different implements.

Claim 34 further refines this structure where each implement includes a recessed groove intermediate the length of the implement and positioned to one side of the base arm with the recess groove being engagable with a locking spring associated with the receiving socket of the drive shaft when the implement is received in the implement receiving socket. This arrangement releasably retains the implement in the implement receiving socket.

Dependent claim 32 is directed to a preferred embodiment of the invention where the pivot shaft of each carrier is received in an elongate port of the base arm. A spring members provides a bias urging the pivot shaft towards the end of said base arm opposite the implement receiving arm. This is clearly shown in the drawings.

The former claims of the application were rejected as being obvious over Cowley. In particular, the claims specified that the implement receiving carrier is slidably and pivotably secured in the slot recess of the implement receiving collar 3. In the Cowley reference, the collar pivotally secures the carrier in a fixed position relative to the collar.

New claim 29 clearly requires that the pivot axis of each carrier is slidable along the respective slot recess of the collar. Note that each carrier has its own slot and is slidably displaceable along this slot of the collar. The reference frame of these components is the collar and Cowley does not have carriers which are movable in the manner specifically claimed. In fact, Cowley teaches away from this structure and has disclosed a completely different arrangement where the collar is movable relative to the drive shaft and rotatable relative to the drive shaft. The collar in Cowley is slidable on the drive shaft but there is no pivoting and slide arrangement of the carrier relative to the collar and a particular movement of the pivot axis of each carrier within its own slot recess provided in the collar.

The sliding and pivoting movement of the carrier relative to the collar allows for an effective structure where the implement can be loaded and retained within the drive shaft and movable to a storage position immediately adjacent the collar and partially received in the collar in contradiction to the primary reference. As the Examiner can appreciate, the present structure allows for a more compact arrangement due to the pivoting and sliding movement of the carrier and it also allows for releasable securement of the carrier in the slot recess.

The Cowley reference teaches away from the sliding and pivoting carrier arm of the present invention that cooperates with the collar having the series of elongate slots that receive these carrier arms. In the present invention, the carrier arm allows positioning of the implement, i.e., the actual tool; screwdriver, drill, etc. relative to the socket recess of the drive shaft and the sliding movement of the carrier of the slot recess to effect receipt of the actual implement in the drive socket. In the Cowley reference, the holders 5 are pivotally attached to outwardly extending arms of the headpiece 3. Each holder 5 perhaps could be compared to the implement carriers of the present invention. If the holder 5 is equivalent to the present carriers, then this holder 5 according to the Cowley reference requires specialized spindles 6 with these specialized spindles 6 include a projecting head 10 having a transverse central slot 11 for engagement with the drive shaft.

The opposite end of the specialized spindle 6 includes a nut 8 used to hold and secure the tool 9 in the spindle. Thus, each of the holders 5 has a separate spindle 6 rotatable within the holder and this separate spindle is engageable with the implement or tool 9. Thus the reference does not have an arrangement where the actual implement is received within a drive socket of the drive shaft, nor does this reference have the required pivoting and sliding of each carrier arm that receives the implement in the particular manner claimed.

This reference teaches away from the structure as claimed in the application and it is only based on hindsight that one would seriously depart from the principles of this reference without any basis in the application. There is certainly no suggestion, let alone teaching of the extensive modifications that would be required to be made to this reference including the entire deletion of the specialized spindles 6 associated with each of the only pivoted secured holders 5. It is respectfully submitted that this reference is only of interest.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of the application is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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